CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM
LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 2025 - AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:
Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Lenessa Hawkins, Councilpersons Baccus, McRavin, Gardner, Reed, Milling, and Segars. Also present was Hunter Thomas, Steve Abbott, Gloria Hines, Anna DeWitt, Linwood Epps, Ernestine Lyde, Sean Odom, Anya Cooper, James Cooper, Rose Pruitt, Joyce Thomas, Tracy Blakney, Geraldine Cuypers, Dyan Cohen, Michael Morris, Lucas Reed, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, and others.

Mr. Stephan Drew from the News and Press was present at the meeting.

Invocation was by Mayor Curtis Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman McRavin stated she wanted to amend the agenda to add a presentation from Intern Anya Cooper under "Citizens wishing to Appear" as well as financial discussion. Councilman Gardner said, "I'm assuming that's a motion, so I will second it. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman McRavin said the second one is just for the record so we will have our financial reports proposal and that we can add under "Unfinished Business." Councilman Gardner said, I brought up asking for financial reports months ago and all of council was in agreement. Historically when that happens, administration just moves forward. Do we really have to vote on it as an agenda item tonight? Councilwoman McRavin said, "At that time we did not talk about …. I mentioned previously about adding information to our websites as well as us getting reports. Councilman Gardner said, "We discussed all of that and we were all in favor of everything so if the administration …. they are supposed to …Councilwoman McRavin said, "We didn't really say, and we didn't vote on it. Councilman Gardner said, "We don't have to vote on it." Councilwoman Baccus said, "But I think it still needs to be discussed just for public knowledge. Councilman Gardner said, "The council is here for business and stuff like that, we shouldn't have to go through a formal vote on but if you all want to do it just so the public can know, that's a separate thing, I guess." **Councilwoman McRavin made a motion to add underneath "Unfinished Business" to talk about financial reports. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Milling, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of our Public Hearing and Special Council Meeting on June 26, 2025. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes from our Regular City Council Meeting on July 1, 2025. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the Special Meeting / City Council Workshop minutes on July 29, 2025. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Segars, Milling and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

RECOGNITIONS, REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Stormwater PowerPoint Presentation – Ms. Geraldine Cuypers, Water Resources Agent

There was a pause for a few minutes before they could get the PowerPoint presentation started. Ms. Hawkins asked Mayor Boyd to go on with agenda items while they try to get the laptop to work.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Gloria Hines said some time ago DeQuincy Davis offered to do the historic street signs for the city. She said he started doing it, but he never finished. He is now deceased. Ms. Hines said, "I would like for us to consider this concerning our signs …. I reported one of the newer signs in front of my beauty salon when Mr. Payne was here, but it was never repaired, and the sign is still down. She said while riding around in the city our historic signs look so bad and would like the city to consider trying to do those signs over.

Ms. Ernestine Lyde said Ms. Hines just touched on one of the things she wanted to talk about, which is the signs, but she wants to talk about signs on her side of town, which is the westside. Ms. Lyde said you can't read the street signs near Pine School. She said another concern is on Main Street. She said it was flooded, and the puddles were so deep you couldn't drive through it and the people that drove through it their cars stalled. She said it's different streets where the flooding is really bad, such as Jessamine Street, S. Main by the church and by Hardee's, on W. Broad Street by the funeral home and on Lee Street.

Sean Odom said, I would like to concur with what Ernestine said," and I advised council when you all were first planning to build the splash pad, that maybe instead of building the splash pad at that moment we should have put the money towards our storm drains and our water and sewer. He said I told you all that this would happen because our infrastructure is not good, and you all decided to do that, so this is the repercussion.

Don Blakney thanked the mayor for responding to the situation that they had going on on Bacote Street. He also thanked Ms. Hawkins for responding. Mr. Blakney said it's the same situation. He's coming to talk about the infrastructure and the stuff that's on the property needs to be taken care of. He said I'm hoping that you all will turn around and come out. If you have

not been down these streets, you need to come and take a look and see the situation that's going on and see what can be done about it.

Mrs. Joyce Thomas said she serves on the Darlington County Council which encompasses part of the city. She said she serves on a six County Community Development Board Council of Governments Pee Dee area. Mrs. Thomas said in this position she is able to vote on the grants that we have coming through. She said, "I've been really good getting us money and I want to continue doing that, but we need to do a little better with spending the money appropriately for the public. She said we have a $8.5 million grant for South Darlington. She said I am asking you all to work together with the county so we can get this taken care of. Mrs. Thomas said everything that she had heard so far, they have money for that. She said I want us to be a more cohesive group and work together so they can get some things done around here in Darlington city and county.

Back to the Stormwater Presentation: (Council received a handout of her presentation) Ms. Geraldine Cuypers said she works for Clemson extension as a Water resources Agent and she covers Florence, and Darlington County. Stormwater is anytime it rains or snows anything that falls onto a hard surface and goes into the stormwater system is considered stormwater so in an undeveloped environment you usually don't have these hard surfaces so water can actually filter into the ground and pollutants that certain water carries or taken up by plants, or they don't exactly go into the ground the water. One common misconception about stormwater is that it goes to a wastewater treatment plant. It in fact does not get treated. Nothing gets filtered out, so cigarette butts or oil from car leaks on the road. It goes into the storm sewer system, or stormwater system, and into our waterways. Under the stormwater permit, NPDES, which stands for national pollution, discharge elimination system, enacted by the EPA. The states are authorized to regulate different States and entities stormwater operations, and that includes enforcement. They DES that does that and they have delegated to municipalities that power to basically do this enforcement and this education. Ms. Cuypers said in our state, we have what we call MS4 which stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. This means that the sewer system, and the stormwater system should never cross or be combined. Ms. Cuypers said, in my position I cover the first two entities of the stormwater permit that municipalities have, which are public education and public participation. Ms. Cuypers said, "I am also a Carolina Clear agent, and that entails helping municipalities fulfill the first two portions of that stormwater permit, which are public education and public involvement. Because we are under this one stormwater permit it is the municipality's responsibility to make sure that the water being released into the waters of the US are of good quality or acceptable quality. With the Carolina Clear Program, they have agents all over the state that help educate the public through litter cleanups and they come up with signs that educate the public, for example properly disposing of pet waste and helping prevent bacteria pollution. Ms. Cuypers had a slide showing the rain garden at Darlington Middle School. She said that is one of the programs that they have at the middle school with green water infrastructure and educating the kids on that. She says the program that she runs is called Florence Darlington Stormwater Consortium. In this consortium they have the City of Florence, Florence County, Darlington County, The town of Timmonsville, and the town of Quinby. She said they meet on a quarterly basis, and every five

years they go through a strategic plan where the municipalities would vote on the top three pollutants of concern. This past cycle, they voted on sediment, bacteria, and FOG (which stands for fats, oils, and grease). They also have statewide mass media campaigns. The one they had last year was the septic safe program, encouraging people to have their septic tanks inspected every two years. Ms. Cuypers said every consortium has different municipalities and each municipality wants to get different information out to the community. Being part of the consortium means you get to tailor that information specifically for the community. She showed slides of a stormwater mural project that they put in Timrod Park in June, going through a water cycle at Darlington Middle School and a water quality activity with the kids at the Darlington County Library. Ms. Cuypers continued going over her PowerPoint presentation. Councilwoman McRavin wanted to know how to be a part of the consortium. Ms. Cuypers said, The City of Darlington used to be in the consortium up until about three years ago. She said to be a member of the consortium; it's a five-year contract but you can opt out at any point and it's $5,000 a year. She said, "And with that you get to put in your request of what you want to see of the agent, what kind of programs you would like to see other agents, which communities you want me to target and what information you want me to get out there? Ms. Cuypers said Ms. Hawkins does have a copy of an example of what the contract would look like. Ms. Anya Cooper, our summer intern. Ms. Hawkins said, "I tasked Anya with completing or researching and putting together a draft of a Citizen 101 course. Ms. Cooper said I am currently a rising junior at the University of South Carolina, where I am studying environmental sciences, so I enjoyed the presentation we just heard. She said she is grateful for the opportunity to be a summer intern for the City of Darlington. Her main task was a security course for citizens to better grasp behind the scenes of city government in their local area, and I created a course that would meet once a week for seven weeks with six informational sessions. Each weekly session focuses on one area of our government, the areas being our city administrator, public safety, public works, city council, budget management, and then community development and resources. The course itself would have no true budget unless funding was allocated for meals. Ms. Cooper said I have researched other areas, and they provide meals because this course will be held around 6 o'clock. So, there is no funding other than that or wanting the participants to have T-shirts, pens, or things of that nature. The other requirement would be a facilitator, but most of these do have a volunteer facilitator or they have the community engagement representative as an instructor for that course. She said there are many locations where this course could be advertised and that is one thing that we will try to make sure it is diverse. We want people from churches, local businesses, and other city officiated media to be involved so that one area is not being educated, but everybody in the City of Darlington. A few of the sessions are planned with activities to ensure that citizens aren't just sitting down and it's not a classroom setting but it is interactive, and they are understanding energy and knowledge has to go into creating a budget. What goes into a city council meeting and what goes into our public works and public safety. Sometimes they don't see the energy and the time that goes into this, but it is very needed, and it is very underappreciated sometimes. Ms. Cooper said earlier she created a survey and sent it to various community members to better understand the needs of the community. She said many of the responses, including understanding, education, and youth engagement as well as how to better understand city budgets from the citizens perspective. Some wanted to know more about street infrastructure, many of that being potholes, but others

wanted to better communicate with their representatives, and with their city council members, some also wanted to know how they would seek an official position such as being the mayor, one day or being a city council member. And then others wanted to know about the city as a whole; these responses, along with many more, should be considered when creating a course. I hope you all consider this program for the City of Darlington. I think it would be very beneficial to get everybody of all ages and all backgrounds engaged in their community. This will also help you all if they are educated, and things for you guys would run more smoothly as well as things for the citizens.

Boards and Commission Appointments

Councilman Gardner made a motion to appoint Mr. Hampton Brasington to the Williamson Park Committee. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Gardner made a motion to reappoint Sandra Chace to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion to reappoint Brian Gandy to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business

Second Reading on Ordinance No. 2025-03 Housing Incentive Program

Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-03 Housing Incentive Program. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Boyd said with the understanding to remove my name from the top of the form. Just put the City of Darlington. Mayor Boyd asked the city manager to encourage Hunter to come up with a plan to promote it so that the public and contractors know that we are offering this incentive for a two-year period.

Financial Report - Councilwoman McRavin

Ms. McRavin said, “So we have documented and have on record, I was asking that we have financial documents and reporting …. our budgeting and it’s so important for us to know where our finances are and the financial status. It is absolutely crucial to have that information in order for us to make informed decisions, as well as making certain that we remain on target with our finances. I am asking and requesting a few things so that we, as a governing body, can be informed as well as help our citizens are informed as well, so they can see where their tax dollars are being spent. This is in an effort as well to reduce some of these FOIA requests and just provide that citizen transparency. She said the two things that I am requesting are the check registries and any necessary documentation pertaining to that and that they are posted to our

website so that citizens can at any time go to the website and take a look at those check registries. She is asking that 2025 be done by October 7th. The ultimate goal is to have check registries and supporting documentation from the past 10 years be posted on the website as well as financial reports that the council … that the entire governing body would end up getting the same information. And starting next month that we can at least get a financial report, knowing that the information that we will be receiving won't be from August, but it will be from July because bank statements won't be reconciled by then. This year we will get one every other month and then starting in January 2026, we will receive one on a monthly basis so that we can remain current and informed about where things are and how departments are spending money. Mayor Boyd asked me (Ms. Pridgen) if this was something we could provide each month and put online. I explained that at year-end there are entries that must be made before we can close out the year. I told them the CPA was coming tomorrow, and we will make sure everything is entered and then close the year at which point we will see what we can do as far as getting it online. Councilwoman Baccus said, "It's just you and Cheryl, do you all have time with all of the other things that you all are tasked with"? I said, it seems like we'll have to find time, even if we have to do it after hours. Councilwoman Baccus asked Ms. Hawkins if this is something that the communications person can post online for them. She said because I find it hard to see that Darlington has a lot of news…. news that's daily or weekly. I said we will see what's going to be involved in order to get a report and get it ready to be uploaded onto the website. We will see what that will take and then we can get back with you all, but whatever we are able to do, we are willing to do. Ms. Hawkins said, "Can we do just check registers going back 10 years because I know that some of their files are not in one place". There was a discussion about what backup documentation is needed. Councilwoman McRavin said, I don't know how much information is on your check register. Is it enough to be able to follow … for us to be able to follow or for a citizen seeking information. Because when you all have to do a FOIA request that becomes extremely time consuming. Councilwoman McRavin said if you have a description on your check register, then you won't need that invoice. Councilman Gardner said, "A couple of months ago we met, and Ms. Hawkins said I brought this up months ago. This is the third item we as a Council have agreed upon, and we are now discussing it again. I don't mean to waste the city's time, and I hope that we don't, but all of the council has agreed upon this when we talked previously. He said Ms. Hawkins made reference to this at the last meeting that I brought this up months ago. I think it's a wonderful idea and I obviously agree with it because I was asking for it months ago, so I agree with it. I might suggest that we don't automatically force them to go online. Maybe try to get that information for us for a month or two so they can see how easy it is for them to gather the information to us and then in 60 to 90 days, then we go online and every month after that we have the information. To ask them to go back 10 years for financial documents and post them all online, that is a lot of busy work that I am just not sure is necessary. Councilman Gardner said, "If it's easy for them to do, I would love for them to put it on there, but one thing I don't want to do is when council as a whole agrees upon a subject that we then come back and re-litigate it with council again. Once we agree upon a subject, I would hope that would be the end of it. I just don't want us to be forcing the administration to be spending half a week once a month on this stuff if it's that hard for them and if it is that hard, we need to go digital even more quickly." Councilwoman McRavin said, "If you check what's there, I didn't ask for 10 years by October. I'm asking for 2025 by October. At that

time, they will know by October what information they have and how quickly they can get the information uploaded. If it is too cumbersome, they can advise us of that. The council continued to discuss this. Councilwoman Baccus said, Hunter can go get the box with the invoices and scan them in. Mayor Boyd said, “Unfortunately, Hunter has got a lot of things to do even though some council people think there’s nothing going on in Darlington. He said for one person to have to scan thousands of invoices coming through here is a large task for anybody. Mayor Boyd said I think Ms. Pridgen and Ms. Hawkins need to look at this and see what process it would take to get those on there. He said if the ladies can look …. Mayor Boyd said, “I suggest that Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Pridgen look and sees what process it needs to be and then bring it back to them at the next meeting. Ms. Hawkins asked if it’s a deal breaker if you don’t have the backup documentation. Councilman Gardner said, “I think we just want to know what the checks are for.” I (Pridgen) told them I will talk with Cheryl and Lacie tomorrow and we will get with Ms. Hawkins and see what we’ve got in the system, and we can send it out to you all to take a look at it to see if that is the information you want to upload.

New Business

Bid Approval for the Paving of Roanoke Street in the Country Club - Lucas Reed

Mr. Reed said, “What I found out was Roanoke Street was supposed to be paved a few years ago. He said the council had already approved of it, but it never was done. He said since it’s been so long ago, he went ahead and got new bids for it to be repaved. He received a bid from industrial paving. Councilman Gardner said before we start looking at the bids, I want to bring it to everybody’s attention that we just purchased property over here. We are trying to redo the sewer system in this area. We have been running a temporary …. for five or six years now, so I don’t know if it’s appropriate to pave the road. He said “I know we just sent in a grant for RIA, but we got denied on the grant that included this. He said our portion that we were going to match with that grant, I believe was the paving, so I don’t think it’s in our best interest to pave this. I think we need to wait until next month. We can ask the companies if they will submit another bid in a month. Councilman Gardner said, I would rather get some understanding from our water and sewer department, to figure out whether or not we are going to be able to apply in the future and what the contact at RIA said was wrong with the grant previously. Mr. Reed said, myself, Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Morris thought about that, and we already discussed it to my understanding. He said that section of Roanoke Street is going to be a very small section. Councilwoman Reed said Roanoke was on the list where it said these had been paved. She showed Lucas the list and he said he didn't have that list and that was his first time seeing it. Councilwoman Reed asked if any of the other streets on the list had been paved and Lucas said, none of them. Councilwoman Baccus said, all of those streets have been paved, we paved those streets in 2021. Lucas said that was years ago, but Roanoke was not paved in that time frame. Councilwoman Reed asked about the $30,000 that said it has been. She said, some of these I do know were paved because they were in my ward. Lucas said, Roanoke has not been paved. It was approved to be paved. Councilman Reed said we need to find out about this. Mayor Boyd said, “That list was created and done when Alex was here. The council continued to discuss whether or not Roanoke was paved. Councilman Milling said, “I remember approving all of those streets the question is, why didn’t this one get done way back when. He said, since it didn’t get done way back then why are those citizens not entitled to have it done now?

Councilwoman Baccus said, “we’re not saying they’re not. Why are all these other citizens not entitled to have theirs done? Councilman Milling asked, are there any others on there that you know that have not been paved Councilwoman Baccus said, yeah. Councilman Milling said, well then, we need to find a list of those that have not been paved and be sure that somebody hasn’t been paid money and not performed the work. Councilman Milling said, we have to do research of the minutes and see what took place and do a search of the finances and find out …. council members continued discussion on the street paving. Councilwoman Baccus said, and the streets that we paved the last time was the majority of the streets on your side of town. It was $384,000 so we’re not paving streets on the other side of town. Councilman Gardner said, “So that sounds really good. So why don’t you bring that in paper form at the next meeting and show us what you’re talking about and educate the public on why.” Mayor Boyd had to call the meeting to order because there was a heated discussion between Baccus and Gardner. Councilman Gardner said, I’d like to point out that one side of town versus the other streets that you mentioned that are on my side of town I don’t even live in the neighborhood I am assuming you mean Country Club Road, Green Drive and Tee Circle. What she fails to mention is that there was a representative that was in the House of Representatives that made the city roads in Darlington DOT, county, and state responsibility. And for some reason, there’s an ethical rule that says you cannot put a street that you live on into that same cooperative where the county and the state are responsible for it. So, it just so happened that the person who lives … that surrounded those three streets that are on my side of town happened to have a representative to put the rest of the streets in Darlington on the states dollar so that we could afford to pay for the stuff we need because we could not afford to keep all the roads up. He said she failed to mention that part. She failed to mention that in her neighborhood around Cain Elementary and a few streets out are all DOT streets, that information is useful. Otherwise, it looks like and appears they were paving streets on one side of the community and not the other for political reasons and that is plain wrong. We as a community have to start coming together and figuring out which street is the worst street and paving that one and not what side of town the street is on. He said that is the issue here tonight. None of these subjects are an agenda item for the City of Darlington so I don’t know why we continue to go down these …. (*inaudible*) holes. Councilman Gardner said, “It is my suggestion that we hold off on paving this road and accepting this bid tonight until they come back next month and tell us about future plans with the RIA Grant. If the representative in Columbia would allow us to reapply and if she thinks we have a reasonable chance of getting it passed because that information is relevant before we spend $50,000 on the road and then cut up 1/3 of it. Councilwoman Reed said, I was quite concerned that I saw that I thought was a discrepancy here and I want that cleared up. I want it to be answered because this same street that we’re bidding on was on the list of streets that have already been paved and money being paid for it. She said that is what is critical to me.” Councilman Gardner said, “Wonderful question but this is a question just like the financial information that if we took one minute to give our city administrator a call and ask that question, we could have the answer before we got to the meeting tonight. That is what being a good councilperson is all about. Mayor Boyd asked, “Lucas if you will find out …. I don’t think it would take much effort …. Ms. Hawkins, if you would find out for us to verify what Mrs. Reed said and make sure we didn’t pay for that road to be paved. It was on our list, so we needed to see which roads were paid for when we made the payment. He said Mr. Morris can find out for sure where

we're at and how long it's going to be before he can get it approved to get the sewer line run down there from the lift station. Ms. Hawkins can find out for us …. Ms. Pridgen can find out which roads were paid for in 2021. Councilman Milling asked Lucas about the difference between the two proposals. He told Lucas before he brings it back to them, get each company to specify a little better what they're going to do. Councilwoman Baccus said, and the streets that I mentioned have nothing to do with DOT the streets are all owned by the City of Darlington."

Clearing of the Rights of Way in the City Limits - Lucas Reed Lucas said there is only one bid. The other bids were text messages, but they were $200-$300 more they would be going throughout the entire city and any trees that are hanging over the roadways lower than 15 feet they will be clearing that. Lucas said $2,000 that shows only bid is $2,000 per day to trim trees over the city. Lucas said it shouldn't take more than three days to do the job. Councilwoman Baccus said DOT cuts the trees on the right of way. She asked, why are we hiring somebody to cut trees in the right of way that DOT will come and cut for free. Lucas said some of these are not in DOT right of way and they are not going to clear it out until it's fifteen feet. Lucas said the way he came up with fifteen feet is he went to the fire department, and he measured from the highest point in the ladder truck to ground and it's right at fourteen feet so you give them fifteen feet in case there's excess rain or during the summer and springtime when the leaves are heavy, they will drop a little. Mayor Boyd asked if we are responsible for tree cutting on the DOT roads and Lucas said, "No" unless it's in the city's easements and right-of way. Councilwoman McRavin asked Lucas if he had a list of streets that you've already ridden by, and you know …. Lucas said he does have a list, but he did not bring it with him tonight. The council continued to discuss this. Councilman Gardner asked Lucas if he can come back and tell them what streets he's talking about and where the problem areas are that you see. Lucas told council that we will revisit this next month. Lucas was also asked to get three bids….

Tree Removal on Spring Street - Lucas Reed

Mr. Reed said the removal of trees on Spring Street is at 114 Spring St. and 116 Spring St. he said it's the same price for both trees. He said he spoke with an arborist from the South Carolina forestry commission, and they verified that those trees are at risk because they are hollowed in the middle and diseased. Lucas said it is a Darlington Oak and every time there is a strong wind the limbs are dropping in the street, and they are constantly having to go and clean that up. He said one of the homeowners had already had a tree company come out and trim limbs that fell inches from the house. Councilman Gardner asked Lucas if he had documentation from the arborist that the trees are dead. Lucas said he can get the arborist to write that up. Councilwoman Reed said, what process did we go through to get these trees done? She said there are trees in Ward 2 that's hazardous and there's limbs in the street. Lucas said, "It's a work in progress. Councilwoman Reed asked what is that process to get Tallulah Street on. Lucas said, it's not like we're just naming trees on one side and then name trees on this side. He said it's not that. I've had more complaints about those two trees hanging in the roadway than any other trees in the city. With that being a high traffic area with the school traffic the last thing we would need is for that tree to fall down with a bus full of kids. Councilwoman Reed said, "I just want to be open and know what this is because the folk in my area do not do that kind of

complaining a lot of times because they think it's not going to be done. So that's why I'm asking. Does it have to be numerous complaints, or do we have something set up where we need to apply for that? Mayor Boyd asked how much funding he has in his line item for this. Lucas said it will come out of department, 590-273. Councilman Milling asked Lucas, what was his process for soliciting bids. Lucas said he looked to see what companies do that service and I will call them and have them come out to the location and submit a bid that way. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So you only solicited one company to come out"? Lucas said, "No ma'am I solicited multiple companies for the bids, but for these I produced for you all the cheapest bids. Councilwoman Baccus said, "But our ordinance requires three bids, so submitting one bid does not satisfy the ordinance. Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Hawkins how much is in the account for this year. Ms. Hawkins said, $15,000. Mayor Boyd said, "We're supposed to have three bids; you've got three bids correct? But you just didn't bring them. Lucas said, "I've got three bids, I just did not bring all three of them in. Councilman Gardner said, "Just screenshot it …. Councilwoman Baccus said, "In order for this council to have a legal vote, there should be three bids presented to the council to vote on it." Councilman Gardner said, "Next month would you mind bringing us three bids"? Lucas said, "Yes, sir. I'll bring all three bids for all three projects. Mayor Boyd told Lucas to bring it to our workshop session.

Discussion of Fee Increase for Company A, B, C, Etc.

Mayor Boyd said the discussion of a fee increase is for residents outside of the city limits. Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Hawkins how much we are currently charging out of city residents. Ms. Hawkins said the base rate for water is $43.02. Ms. Hawkins said the 10%, 20% and 30%, is based on what was over the first 1,000 gallons or 2,000 gallons in this case plus $43.00. She said I had somebody do this for me so …. Mayor Boyd said, "So we are not increasing the base, we are just increasing the usage after the base. Ms. Hawkins said, "Yes, sir. Mayor Boyd asked if we have an idea of how many residents outside the city limits that we have that we service. Ms. Hawkins said, that's all of them that are on the sheet that she passed out. Mayor Boyd asked, are these companies or residents too. Ms. Hawkins said the commercial accounts only, not residents. Mayor Boyd said, "There's only 11 accounts that are commercial. Do you have any idea how many residential accounts there are? Ms. Hawkins said I did not ask for that. I asked for the outside commercial accounts. Mayor Boyd said, …. "You can't go and increase company J and not increase company T, but if we increase the companies at 30% are we still required also to increase the outside residence? Councilman Gardner said, "I think you can do companies and residents separately. You just have to do Carte Blanc across everyone. Ms. Hawkins said, "For the outside sewer rate, she picked 9 or 10 accounts for you as you requested. She said you do have more commercial customers on water if I'm not mistaken, but she only selected 10 that you requested". Councilman Milling asked, "As we're looking at rate increases at 10%, 20% and 30% have we also looked at what revenue this would generate. Ms. Hawkins said she figured out what it would change to. At 10% it would go to $559.88 for 58,260 gallons. Currently they pay $509.19 for that amount. If you increase that amount by 10%, 20% & 30%, it could go up to $661.83 for 58,260 gallons on the commercial sewer rate. Council continued to discuss the out-of-city rates and what they are currently being charged and how much they would want to increase it. Ms. Hawkins said, "None of these are tiered. They just have that one rate. It doesn't matter how many gallons they use, or they send

to us on this commercial sewer side, they are going to pay the same rate at 10% … if they would do half a million. She said, “And it’s always been like that from what I’m told. It’s never been tiered like you have on the residential water and sewer. Ms. Hawkins said to tier it could be a way to differentiate the commercial sewer side. Council continued to discuss…. Mayor Boyd told Ms. Hawkins to bring some more details to them for the next work session. Ms. Hawkins asked, “Information about the companies? Mayor Boyd said, “Get a list of how many total sewers, and how many total commercials. Councilman Gardner asked, “We just want to keep it commercial right now? Mayor Boyd said, we’ll start with …. Councilman Gardner said, and then the tiers just like we do for the city residents. Mayor Boyd said, “A total of how many total water customers we have and how many total sewer customers we have outside the city limits.” Councilman Milling said, “We don’t want to run any commercial customers off, but we do need to … Ms. Hawkins asked, “Do you want to consider tiering the commercial inside because they don’t have a tier either.” Mayor Boyd said we’ll just do the outside first. Councilman Gardner said, “I just want to get educated on what it’s going to cost. What is it going to look like for the residents and the businesses? Mayor Boyd said to put that on the agenda for the next two weeks.

City Manager’s Report – City Manager Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins thanked Ms. Cooper for working with us this summer. She did an excellent job. Ms. Hawkins asked citizens to mow their lawns and lots and take care of the nuisance on their properties. She said in talking to Mr. Fowler, our partner with Safebuilt, said he would help me to help you all put more teeth … to see what else we can do. We will see what Safebuilt, and the team can come up with that we can put into place. Ms. Hawkins said she went to US Town Hall with Representative Fry. They are open to helping us when we need help. As far as the 2025-26 budget is concerned, I will forward you all a copy of the budget. I will refine it a little bit more and then we will get it on the website.

Reminders / Announcements

Tuesday August 26, 2025, City Council workshop / Special Meeting 6:00 PM
Monday, September 1, 2025, City Offices closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, September 2, 2025, Regular City Council meeting 6:00 PM

Executive Session

1)In accordance with SC Code 30-4-70, (b) (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to propose contractual arrangements and propose sale or purchase a property, the receipt of legal advice, where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim, or other matters covered by the attorney, client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency, and other adversaries situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.
2)Personnel matter
(The council may act following the Executive Session)

Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilman Milling to go into Executive Session at 8:16 PM. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. *Councilman Gardner recused himself because of a*

conflict. He left the room and was not involved in any discussions. Councilman Gardner came back in after the first discussion was over. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to end the executive session at 9:04 PM. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Segars and mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Back in Open Session

Councilman Milling made a motion that we ask the person interested in the purchase of the property on Highway 151 to provide us his offer in writing so that we can consider that. Mayor Boyd said, "He has. He sent it to us in an email. Councilman Milling said, "In the way of a valid and enforceable contract so that earnest money is put down and that kind of stuff. Councilman Segars said, "And it is to be annexed. Mayor Boyd said, "We need to vote to say we are willing to accept it or not, accept it as long as he provides a …. **Councilman Milling said, "So my motion is that we are willing to accept a contract in written form an enforceable legal purchase agreement proposed by him. We will accept it as long as it has included in it his proposed purchase price and his willingness to annex into the city and that he will pay all of the cost in connection with the transaction for a net to the City of $590,000. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** *Councilman Gardner did not vote because of a conflict of interest.*

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM. All approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer